

2008 Guide to Groton's Hiking Trails












Areas included:
Beebe Cove, Bluff Point State Park, Haley Farm State Park, Pequot Woods, and the Mortimer Wright Property

Information Compiled: April 2006
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Groton Parks and Recreation
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Legend

	Blue Trail		Distance in Miles
	Yellow Trail		Off Street Parking
	Red Trail		Bathroom Facility
	Unmarked Trail		Compass Rose
	Road		

Rules of the Trail

- ♦ *Carry out what you carry in* – including litter and pet waste.
- ♦ *Leave what you find* – let other hikers enjoy the flowers, mushrooms, wildlife, rocks, etc., after you've been there.
- ♦ *Stick to the trail* – avoid cutting corners or going off trail, this damages wildlife, habitats, and vegetation.
- ♦ *Be Prepared* – carry adequate equipment suitable for your trip.
- ♦ *Respect the peace and quiet of the trails* – other visitors and wildlife will thank you!
- ♦ *Leave all gates and bar-ways as you found them.*
- ♦ *Keep your dog under control at all times* – be sure to keep them on a leash, especially during bird nesting season from the beginning of March through mid-August.
- ♦ *Give horseback riders the right of way.*
- ♦ *Be considerate of the landowner's wishes* – obey all signs, especially “No Trespassing”.

Clothing and Equipment Needed

- ♦ On local trails wear sturdy shoes.
- ♦ Clothing recommended includes layering of synthetic clothing. Always dress according to the weather.
- ♦ A water bottle is also recommended.
- ♦ Sunglasses will prevent eyestrain.
- ♦ If hiking for a distance, it is also wise to carry a first-aid kit, compass, and flashlight.

Trail Tips

- ♦ These trails can be walked in all seasons. They are at their best in the autumn, a little muddy in the spring, hot and muggy in the summer. Winter walking can be delightful, especially after a light snow fall while the animal tracks are still fresh. However, when trails are icy avoid those with rugged granite ridges.
- ♦ Deer ticks, potential carriers of Lyme disease, are a problem except during the coldest winter days. It is advisable to wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants tucked into your socks. An insect repellent containing a minimum of 25% DEET deters both ticks and biting insects.

Pequot Woods



Description of Property

This town-owned property contains 140 acres of woodlands, streams, wetlands, boulders, a shallow pond, and a network of trails. The main entrance is located off of Sandy Hollow Road. Pequot Woods can also be accessed from Route 1. The trails are very easy to follow. The main loop trail brings hikers to the pond, connects them to the subdivision open space, and eventually leads them back to the main entrance. The Brook Trail (yellow trail) and Hill Top Trail (red trail) provide another access to the main loop or are an enjoyable walk in themselves. All trails provide users with a diversity of natural sights and sounds.

Existing Trail Conditions

The trail, directly connected to the main entrance, is a well-maintained loop. It starts as a six to eight foot wide dirt path that narrows to three to five feet for the majority of the trail. Benches are sporadically placed on the loop trail for picnics or other leisure activities. Signage at the beginning of both trail entrances indicates location and direction and blazing of the trees makes the trails easier to follow. The paths from the Route 1 entrance are narrow and slightly rocky in places. Parking is available at the Sandy Hollow Road entrance. There is no off-street parking for the Route 1 entrance.

Directions to the Sandy Hollow Road Entrance

Heading north on I-95, take exit 89 and bear right onto Allyn Street. Take an immediate right onto Sandy Hollow Road. The entrance to the open space is a little over a quarter mile on the southern side of the road.

Directions to the Route 1 Entrance

Heading north on I-95, take exit 89 and bear right onto Allyn Street. Turn right onto Route 1. Travel 0.6 miles down Route 1. The path entrance is marked by a small white and green sign.

Beebe Cove



Description of Property

This open space area is a 97 acre parcel of land located in the southeastern portion of the town. It contains a freshwater pond that can be easily accessed by a foot trail starting from the Route 215 entrance. Two secondary entrances exist, the first is from Judson Avenue on the south side of the road, and the other is off of Capstan Avenue southwest of the cemetery. Along the trails there are a series of stone walls, rock outcrops, and ledges. An area on the western side of the loop trail provides a scenic view of the pond.

Trail conditions

All the trails vary in width and surface type. They average two feet in width and consist of mainly dirt and rocks. The western side of the loop trail has many large boulders and a ledge as well. There are a few unmarked trails throughout the property to be aware of - especially branching off of the blue loop trail.

Directions to the Route 215 Entrance

Heading north on I-95, take Exit 89 and bear right onto Allyn Street. Stay on Allyn Street. As it crosses Route 1, Allyn Street becomes West Mystic Avenue. Take a right onto Route 215/Noank Road and follow for approximately one mile. The trail entrance is on the western side of the road just before the cove.

Directions to the Judson Avenue Entrance

Heading north on I-95, take exit 89 and bear right onto Allyn Street. Turn right onto Route 1. Turn left onto Judson Avenue. Travel 0.6 miles down Judson. The entrance is marked only by a wooden walk-way on the right side of the road.

Directions to the Capstan Avenue Entrance

Heading north on I-95, take exit 89 and bear right onto Allyn Street. Turn right onto Route 1. Turn left onto Judson Avenue. Turn right onto Capstan Avenue. To find the trail entrance, follow the edge of the property line, across the street from the cemetery and bordering the woods, until you see yellow blazes on the trees.

Bluff Point State Park & Haley Farm State Park



Bluff Point and Haley Farms are mapped together due to their close proximity to each other and a trail connecting the two State Parks. None of these trails are marked with paint blazes. The main trails at both locations are very easy to follow; however, there are many secondary trails that go throughout the park which are not shown on this map.

Description of Bluff Point State Park

Bluff Point State Park has a unique distinction: it’s the last remaining major parcel (778 acres) of underdeveloped land along the Connecticut coastline. Despite its coastal location, there’s a climb to 125 feet in Bluff Point, with several trails and roads rising and descending from this high point. Bluff Point was designated a “coastal reserve” in 1975. This area is made up of a saltwater marsh, beach landscape, and an inner upland ridge and is heavily utilized by cyclists, joggers, horseback riders, and walkers.

Existing Trail Conditions

The trail begins with a wide dirt road going south along the Poquonnock River. After about a tenth of a mile the trail forks - the right fork is an easier walk leading straight to Bluff Point and the coastline, while the left is more challenging due to its climb on a rockier, more rugged trail to the high point. This state park, however, is mostly filled with flat trails. Scenic trails also follow the coastline to Bushy Point.

Directions

Take Exit 88 off I-95 and head south on Route 117. Turn right onto US-1. Turn left onto Depot Road and after 0.2 miles, veer right underneath a railroad bridge and follow the dirt road into the parking lot.

Description of Haley Farm State Park

This state-owned land contains 200 acres of forests, tidal wetlands, open fields, ponds, bike paths, and a series of hiking trails. This property offers many different points of interest, such as Palmers Cove, Race Track Pond, views from Canopy Rock, and a mix of trail types. It is accessible to walkers, runners, cyclists, strollers, and wheel chairs, offering many users a variety of different passive and active recreational opportunities.

Existing Trail Conditions:

The main trails are approximately 8 feet wide and consist of some grassy along with and some stone and dusty areas. The eastern part of the trail near the pond is often slightly wet; however, wooden planks are in place to aid crossing. Paths lead to the cove, with scenic views from Canopy Rock. A secondary trail (not shown) leads to Fitch High School.

Directions

Take Exit 88 off I-95 and head south on Route 117. Take a left onto Route 1/Fort Hill Road. Bear right onto Route 215/Groton Long Point Road. Take a right onto Brook Street. Follow Brook Street for just approximately half a mile and turn right onto Haley Farm Lane. The park is located at the end of this road.

Mortimer Wright Property



Description of Property

This 88-acre town-owned property is accessed from Groton Long Point Road, north of Haley Farm State Park. The trail is an old dirt road that leads directly to private property, so please take extra care not to disturb the owners. The flat, open trail passes by a large wetland area as it parallels Eccleston Brook and offers an opportunity to enjoy a short and easy walk through the woods.

Existing trail conditions

Existing trail runs from Groton Long Point Road northeast to private property. This mixed dirt and grassy trail varies in width from six to seven feet. The trail is not marked with paint blazes but is easy to identify.

Directions

Take Exit 88 off I-95 and head south on Route 117. Take a left onto Route 1/Fort Hill Road. Bear right onto Route 215/Groton Long Point Road. The driveway will be on the east side of the road approximately three quarters of a mile from the intersection.



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